United Services Club is not functioning on commercial lines at present.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Acquiring Hi-Tech Weapon System For Defence Forces

2448. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the process of procuring defence related hi-tech weapons has suffered a setback due to extrenous reasons resulting in lack of very essential items needed for combating terrorism;

(b) if so, the present position of acquiring better quality of AK-47 rifles, electronic sensors etc. especially in light of demand by the Indian Army and para-military forces for equipping them better; and

(c) the present status of acquiring T-90 tanks, smerch artillery systems and upgrading 133 mm artillery guns to 155 mm and weapons locating radars?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No Sir. Procurement of defence related hi-tech weapons is a continuous and on-going process keeping in view the essential requirements.

(b) and (c) In view of the sensitive nature of the information, it is not in the interest of national security to disclose the details.

Acquisition of AWACS

†2449. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the present status of the deals on the acquisition of AWACS, mirage 2000 and MIG-21/MIG-29, which are needed for our combat capabilites;

(b) whether Government have approached the US for technology transfer of certain sub-systems on the subject;

(c) if so, the response received from the US; and

(d) how long will it take to introduce AWACS in our defence system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no current deal on the acquisition of Mirage 2000 or MIG-21/MIG-29 aircraft. Technical parameters are being worked out on AWACS.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It would not be possible to lay down a time limit for induction of such a system.

Medical facilites to ex-servicemen in Army Hospitals

2450. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ex-servicemen are not entitled to medical facilities in the army hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons for exclusing the ex-servicemen from such facilities; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the matter and if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. The ex-servicemen are entitled to medical treatment in military hospitals to the extent facilities are available locally in these hospitals.

(b) Question does not arise.